House Votes Information Access Bill

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The House passed and sent to the President yesterday a "freedom of information" bill to allow the public greater access to Government records.

The measure, approved 307 to 0, establishes that Government records should be available unless specific reasons exist for secrecy. It grants Federal courts the power to order disclosure of information withheld by a Government agency.

The Administration took no stand on the bill, and some Government agencies privately expressed disapproval but congressional supporters indicated yesterday they expect President Johnson to sign it.

In a speech before passage yesterday, the bill's chief House sponsor, Rep. John E. Moss (D-Calif.) praised the "excellent cooperation" he had

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